

Congressman Childers Cracks Down on Sexual Predators, Strengthens Border Security

September 29, 2010

Washington, DC – Today, U.S. Rep. Travis Childers (MS-01) introduced legislation to crack down on child sex offenders and work to strengthen our nation's border security by introducing legislation that prevents child sex offenders in other countries from entering the United States. The *International Child Protection Act* (H.R. 6242) will make it illegal for convicted child sex offenders to enter the United States, protecting our children from foreign criminals.

"Every year, millions of children fall prey to sexual predators. These young victims are left with permanent psychological, physical, and emotional scars. It is vital that we have the provisions in place to protect our children and all American citizens. I'm proud to have introduced critical legislation to keep our children safe and increase U.S. border security by preventing dangerous foreign criminals from entering our country," said Childers.

"We must take steps to prevent foreign sex offenders from coming into our country and victimizing our children," said Ernie Allen, President and CEO of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "Clarifying the U.S. admissibility standards will help achieve this goal."

"The best way to prevent child sexual abuse is to keep perpetrators, who are often serial sex offenders, off our streets and away from our children," said Scott Berkowitz, president and founder of RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network). "This resolution demonstrates Representative Childers' strong commitment to protecting our children from sexual abuse and its devastating effects, and RAINN is pleased to support it."

This bill will make it illegal for convicted child sex offenders to enter the United States. It also supports cooperation among the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State to work with foreign law enforcement agencies to crackdown on convicted sex offenders crossing our borders.

From 2003 to 2008, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under Operation Predator, a flagship initiative targeting child sex predators, made more than 11,600 arrests of immigrants for child sex crimes. Childers' bill will prevent sexual predators from entering our country and preying on our children.

This bill is supported by National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network), and National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (MS-01) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit www.childers.house.gov